

INCOMING TELEGRAM

Department of State

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SOVIET COMMENTS ON CUBA

FRIENDLY LEBANESE CORRESPONDENT TOLD USUN IN CONFIDENCE
COMMENTS MADE TO HIM BY RADIO MOSCOW CORRESPONDENT AT UN:

1. SOVIET CRRESPONDENTS MET WITH MIKOYAN LAST NIGHT WHO SAID
WITHOUT DETAILS "HE HAD TOUGH TIME IN CUBA".
2. SOVIETS FULLY AWARE THEY LOST FACE AMONG NEUTRALS AND OWN
ALLIES BY WITHDRAWAL BUT ACHIEVED MAIN OBJECTIVE: MAINTAINING
SOCIALIST REGIME IN WESTERN HEMISPHERE.
3. LOSS IN PRESTIGE WILL BE MADE UP BY SUCCESSES ELSEWHERE;
KHRUSHCHEV POLICY "ONE STEP BACKWARD, TWO STEPS FORWARD".
4. SITUATION VERY TENSE IN SOVIET GOVERNMENT CIRCLES BETWEEN
OCTOBER 22 AND 27. SOVIETS THOUGHT US WOULD INVADE CUBA,
THEY WOULD COUNTER WITH ARMS, RESULTING IN WAR WHICH KHRUSHCHEV
WANTS AVOID AT ALL COSTS.

STEVENSON

MCG/3

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